

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): May I know whether the Government will encourage the starting of volunteer corps?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): It will be considered.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): In Madras there is a University Volunteer Corps. Why not we start a similar organisation here?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): That is a University Training Corps which take in only University men. The question of having a small contingent of University Under-graduates is now being considered by the University in consultation with the two Principals.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Cannot our High Schools also be included in it?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): We cannot include the High Schools.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (Cheruthuruthi): Did not the Trichur Municipality ask the Government permission to form their own volunteer organisation during this war time?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): I want notice.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): Is it the policy of the Government to encourage these volunteer organisations, or not to encourage them?

THATCHING OF HOUSES IN DEPRESSED CLASS COLONIES

384. മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻ: താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സദയം മറുപടി പറയുമോ.

(എ) അധഃകൃത കോളനികളിലുള്ള ഭവനങ്ങളുടെ കെട്ടിമേച്ചിലുകൾ പൂർത്തിയാക്കി തായിട്ടു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്കു റിപ്പോർട്ട് ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ;

(ബി) ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ കാരണം സദയം അറിയുകയോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: (എ) അപ്രകാരം ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ട് ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്കു അയക്കു റില്ല. എല്ലാ കോളനികളിലും കെട്ടിമേച്ചിൽ സാധനങ്ങൾ ശേഖരിക്കുകയും, ഭൂരിപക്ഷം കോളനികളിലും ടി സാധനങ്ങൾ വീതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും അവരവർതന്നെ വീടുകൾ കെട്ടിമേയുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

(ബി) ഉത്തരം ആവശ്യമില്ല.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES—PREVENTION OF

385. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): Have Government taken any steps as a precautionary measure to prevent epidemic of cholera and other similar diseases on account of an influx of population in certain localities of the State?

Mr. T. K. Nayar (Minister for Rural Development): The officers of the Public Health Department and the Municipalities have been instructed to be very vigilant in watching the evacuees with a view to prevent the importation of epidemic diseases and to take immediate measures, if any such imported case is detected, to check the spread of the disease.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Cochin Christian Civil Marriage Act Repeal Bill

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Mr. President, Sir, I move that the Cochin Christian Civil Marriage Act Repeal Bill be read in Council.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (Chittur-Rural): I second it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Sir, in moving this Bill I may be allowed to bring to the notice of this House and Government that since the coming into force of this Act in the year 1095, nearly 27 years have passed and yesterday the Secretary to Government replied on the floor of this House that only 3 marriages have been registered according to this Act. As early as 27 years back no other community in the State was troubled with a Civil Marriage Legislation. The Christian community as a whole protested against it even in those old days. I remember that 27 years back this Act was passed by flouting the opinion of practically all the members of the Christian community then living. Years after 1095, in the year 1110 the Civil Marriage Act was passed by this House and assented to by His Highness the Maharaja. Within the last 7 years four marriages have been registered according to the Act. That shows the second Act has been more popular with the people than the previous Act which has been applicable only to Christians. If only 3 marriages have been registered according to the Christian Civil Marriage Act and that within the last 27 years, that is sufficient proof that the community do not want that Act nor many members of the community do suffer for the want of such an Act. Almost all the Christians of the State really do not want such an Act at present and practically nobody suffers for want of such a separate Act. No Christian believes

in the validity of a marriage unless the marriage is solemnised by the help of a clergyman or presbyter. Any Christian believes in some form of a Christian sect even though not a believer in the clergy or presbyter or churches, even such Christians do want at least a Christian layman to pray over the marrying couple for God's blessings. The Marriage Registrar is not expected to do it. The present Marriage Registrars, one being a Roman catholic and the other being a Jacobite, will not be liked by such Christians who don't believe in churches or Priests for the solemnization of their weddings. Of course Government servants are only expected to finish off that formality. Christians will never permit these officers to pray for their marriages. Neither these officers may like to conduct prayers over such marriages. I will bring to the notice of this House that there are about 5 or 6 small Christian sects in my constituency who do not believe in having organised churches nor in priesthood nor in Canon Law or any such rubbish—they say these are rubbish—they believe only in the Bible. They neither believe in any form of sacrament. Such people do not also believe or care in the registering of a marriage by a Government servant whoever he be. These people do not have a recognised presbyter also for the celebration of their marriages. Any christian belonging to their faith or accepting the tenets of their particular sub-sect may at any time pray over the bride and bridegroom. There is no prayer book for these people. Prayers are extempore. They read a portion of the Bible, sing a song, make the bride and bridegroom stand side by side, have the hands clasped and have an extempore prayer and blessing. If I volunteer to conduct a prayer on such occasions such people do not permit me. If Dr. C. C. Mathew or Mr. C. J. Mathew volunteer to register the marriage after such a prayer, they will refuse. I have advised many such Christians to register their marriage according to the Cochin Christian Civil Marriage Act. They refuse. They believe it is unchristian.

According to the Christian Civil Marriage Act V of 1095 only one of the parties need be a Christian. Not even one per cent or one out of thousand or even one out of a lakh believe in such a sort of Christian marriage. For those liberal minded men who want to solemnise a marriage with a party who is not a Christian, there is the other Act sponsored by the Hon'ble Deputy President and assented to by His Highness, I mean Act XXI of 1110. Then where is the necessity of another Civil Marriage Act for Christians alone? The only difference between the Christian Civil Marriage Act and the Civil Marriage Act of 1110 is that the Marriage Registrar under the Christian Civil Marriage Act ought to be a Christian. A liberal-minded Christian who wants to marry a non-Christian or any other Christian outside the church will not mind whether the marriage is solemnised by a Muhammadan or a Hindu or a Jew or a Buddhist!

Mr. K. Ayyappan (Ezhuvas-Kanayannur) : Does the Registrar solemnise the marriage?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam) : The word used is solemnise whether with prayer or without prayer. Even according to the Act V of 1095, when the office of the Christian Marriage Registrar is temporarily vacant, the Magistrate having jurisdiction over the local area shall act and be a Christian Marriage Registrar. Any Christian who wants to have his marriage registered need not necessarily have the marriage solemnised by a Christian himself. Sometimes the Magistrate will be a Brahmin or a Nayar. He cannot be assured of that privilege.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (Mulakunnathukavu) : Is it a privilege.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam) : If a Christian thinks that it is a privilege to have a Christian Civil Marriage Registrar, it is a privilege.

On these grounds I think the Christian Civil Marriage Act as it stands at present, as long as the Civil Marriage Act XXI of 1110 is on the Statute Book is a superfluous and unwanted measure. Whatever might have been the reasons that prompted the Government to promulgate the Cochin Christian Civil Marriage Act in 1095, such conditions do not exist now and the continuance of the Act of 1110 solves the problem for such Christians.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi) : Do you know the cause for this Act?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam) : I know it perfectly well. I remember it well. The Roman Catholic Parishioners in Narakkal were interdicted by the then Bishop of Ernakulam and that continued for some time. But as Catholics, they have every right to appeal to the Pope. His Holiness the Pope instructed the Catholic Bishop of Ernakulam to do away with the interdiction.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram) : What does the preamble say?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam) : According to the preamble of the old Act it is intended only for Christians. According to the Act of 1110 it is intended for all sections of the subjects of His Highness. So I request that the Cochin Christian Civil Marriage Act may be repealed and as long as the Act of 1095 stands such minority Christians who sincerely believe in the

efficacy of the prayer of their own people for the perfection of marriages, such marriages might even be declared null and void according to the law if not registered.

Mr. President: I have to announce that the Senior Rani passed away at Trichur and the House is adjourned as a mark of respect.

The House stood adjourned sine die at 12-14 p.m.

K. S. RAGHAVAN

Secretary to the Council

APPENDIX I

(a) (Vide answer to Question No. 367)

Year	(i) No. of sales held		(ii) No. confirmed		Remarks
	Movables	Immovables	Movables	Immovables	
1115	78	872	78	606	
1116	70	1335	70	905	
1117 (till the end of Dhanu)	21	235	21	165	

(b)

Year	(i) Total amount involved in these sales for the periods referred to in a (i) and (ii)				(ii) Total amounts for which these properties were bid			
	Movables		Immovables		Movables		Immovables	
1115	13,431	6 8	6,29,781	13 7	10,693	11 4	3,73,107	9 6
1116	23,044	9 5	10,35,480	5 5	21,357	12 6	6,07,440	12 9
1117	4,191	12 0	3,99,845	4 10	3,966	1 3	4,84,715	9 7

(c)

Year	Total value of immovable properties which have changed hands by the court sales referred to above							
	(i) for which it was bid				(ii) for which it was confirmed			
1115	3,18,882	15	4		3,02,341	13	11	
1116	5,35,727	3	6		5,36,130	11	7	
1117 (till the end of Dhanu)	1,03,093	1	3		71,368	10	3	